

Introduction

Due to COVID-19, many Maryland employees are unable to travel to work. Governor Hogan implemented several measures to slow the spread including mandatory teleworking for all eligible government employees. As a result, vehicle traffic was cut in half and the State's air quality improved with a significant decrease in CO2 emissions from the transportation sector. Identifying ways to maintain these air quality improvements as the State returns to business as usual is critical, with increased motivation because the State's GHG reduction plan is being finalized. Knowing which jobs can be performed from home is important as separate policies and programs are necessary for private and public sector employees.

Key Points

- MDE is reviewing a straw-man policy that aims to increase remote working for all state jobs in both the public and private sectors
- Multiple programs or initiatives will be developed
- Programs focused on the private sector might be outreach, education or incentive-based
- Research conducted by MDE indicates that approximately 40% of Maryland's jobs can be done entirely from home. Survey and analysis were done in Baltimore City, Towson, and Columbia. The Maryland specific number is slightly higher than the national average of 37%.
- Remote work eligible jobs typically pay more than jobs that cannot be done at home
- Individual worker's productivity may differ considerably when working at home
- Co-benefits need to be recognized, with recognition that individuals with lower paying jobs are disproportionately impacted by outdoor air quality
- NOx reductions from reduced traffic will decrease Nitrogen pollution to the Bay
- With increased time spent at home, Indoor Air Quality is a rising concern
- total state workforce (2018): 2,454,418
- total state government employees: (2018): 49,833